

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 101-165 are now pending in this application. These claims were newly presented in an amendment dated 8/13/01. The examiner is requested to renumber these claims in numerical order to follow the number of claims in the original patent, as provided in MPEP § 1453, example 5.

Original claims 1-12 that were issued in the patent have been cancelled. New claims 13-100 that have been presented during the prosecution of the present reissue application have also been cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action in which it was indicated that the examiner's answer has been withdrawn and that claims 101-165 would be allowed if the following informalities are resolved.

The reissue declaration filed with the application has been objected to because it does not cover claims 101-165. In response, Applicants submit a signed Supplemental Declaration For Reissue Patent Application To Correct "Errors" Statement (PTO form PTO/SB/51S) to overcome the objection as required in MPEP § 1414.01 and 37 CFR § 1.175(b). Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 101-165 are rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration. Applicants submit that the attached Supplemental Declaration (form PTOSB/51S) is sufficient to overcome this rejection. Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action required Applicants to submit formal drawings which incorporate the changes submitted on May 20, 1997 and July 22, 1997. In response, Applicants submit formal drawings of Figures 1 and 3 which incorporate these changes.

The Office Action required Applicants to submit a substitute specification. In response, Applicants submit, as a separate attachment hereto, a substitute reissue specification which shows the changes made on the text of the original patent. Applicants also submit a plain text version of the substitute specification in the body of the present response for the examiner's convenience.

Applicants also enclose a Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) (PTO form PTO/SB/96) to establish ownership of the assignee and to support the consent of the assignee, as provided in MPEP § 1410.01.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 11/4/04

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.